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I N C H A N G E

JUNE 7th AND 8th 2024 | SAN JOSÉ COSTA RICA



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# High Level Event on Ocean Action: Immersed in Change

## Concept Note

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### Background:

Covering more than 70% of our planet, the ocean is origin and therefore responsible of all life on Earth. It plays a key role to all living creatures, driving our weather patterns, as the greatest carbon dioxide sink, providing more than 35% of the world population daily subsistence, specially to developing countries, either as food source of the 50% of global protein and generating globally 60 million jobs through a dynamic and steady growth economy, which reaches approximately 5% of the planet's Gross Domestic Product.

Despite its importance, the ocean is suffering the effects of the current environmental crisis caused by climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. The unprecedented deterioration of the ocean, and with it a diminish of life itself, the sea-level rise due to melting of polar ice, the number of extreme events and natural disasters, marine heatwaves, the resulting degradation of reef and ocean acidification caused by global warming, are causing altogether a crisis that endangers the extinction of around 50% of all its species by the end of this century.



These imbalances are exacerbated by millions of tons of plastic, wastewater, IUU fishing practices, lost, discarded or abandoned fishing gear, extractive activities on the seabed, affecting directly the health of the ocean, its biodiversity, our food security, livelihoods and a sustainable use of the ocean and coastal marine resources.

Assuming our responsibility towards the present and future generations, and through historic and collective efforts taken over last years, we have agreed international instruments to mitigate the effects of this environmental emergency over the ocean. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) that includes the commitment to protect 30% of land and 30% of the ocean; the adoption of the agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, as well as the ongoing negotiation of an international instrument to end plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, are some of our main coordinated responses to counter the sequels, becoming a reiteration of our commitment as a human kind to effectively achieve the sustainable development goal 14: "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development".

Our present and future, as well as our legacy, depend on immediate implementation actions. The true change is a coherent match between the political will already expressed, followed by actions accordingly. Actions that materializes the deployment and access to the means of implementation, to the exchange of good practices and leading-edge technologies, to new standards of quality of life, to successful experiences in the governance and health of the ocean, to a real reconstruction of harmony with nature.

The Government of Costa Rica, consistent with its tradition to protect and conserve the environment, convinced of the value of generating national, regional and global solutions in an inclusive and jointly manner, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, and in view of the Third UN Ocean Conference (UNOC), to be held in Nice in 2025 and co-hosted by Costa Rica and France, organizes the **High Level Event on Ocean Action: Immersed in Change, to take place on June 7 and 8th, 2024, in San José, Costa Rica.**



## Objective of the event:

The High-Level Event on Ocean Action is visualized as a space to exchange good practices and successful experiences on topics related to the governance and health of the ocean. It seeks to position topics of high relevance for the ocean's global agenda, as well as thriving specific implementation actions to address the severe environmental damages that is facing.

## Themes and format:

Through a series of interactive panels that will serve as an international platform of exhibition, leaders and government authorities, civil society, scientific community, private sector and other relevant actors, will illustrate successful cases with the potential of being replicated and adapted by other countries or regions.

Through eight different panels, we will cover topics of impact focused on **(1) the sustainable usage of fishing resources**, the ocean and the coastal marine biodiversity as mean of subsistence, **(2) fighting against ghost fishing gear** and **(3) blue economy**.

Recognizing as well the key role that technology places to accelerate action for the ocean, the event will explore the opportunities offered by **(4) satellite technology** to the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean, **(5) the promotion to global access to technologies for ocean cleaning**, and **(6) the scientific development to address marine pollution caused by plastics**.

**(7) The effective implementation of global agreements**, the **(8) resource mobilization and the necessary and available financial mechanisms** for the effective health y governance of the ocean, will be addressed to promote political commitment in hand with crucial actions.

# Immersed

IN CHANGE



## Contact us:

For more information and interest in participation please contact

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